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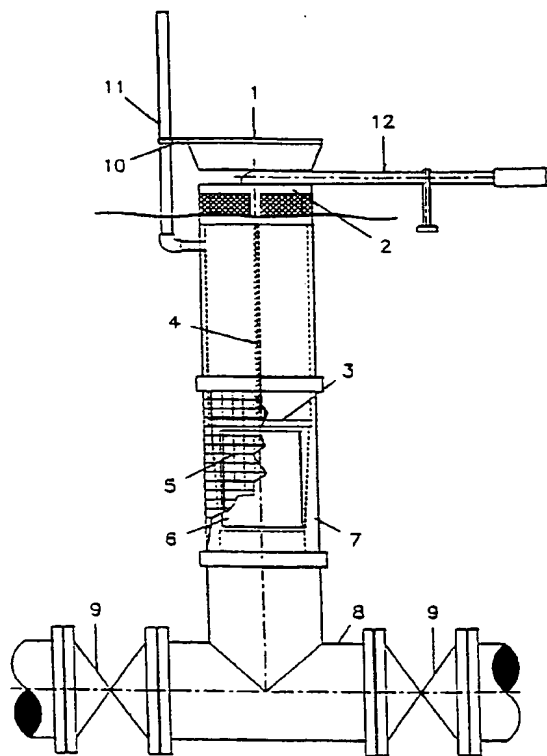
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(54) Title: AN ANTI-FLOODING DEVICE FOR THE EXPLOITATION OF WATER ENERGY



(57) Abstract: An anti-flooding device with possible displacement of the waters for the exploitation of water energy comprising a double closing system with an outer or inner cylindrical element with automatic, serai-automatic or manual operation, consisting of a pipe-line provided, in its upper part, with an opening (2) at the surface level which assures a constantly equal water level in the basin, and below which there are a plurality of pipes (11) which come out above the surface for the air passage and for being guided to a float (1) connected to a tubular sluice-gate (3) that closes an opening (6) realized on the bottom of the main pipe-line, which may be connected and functioning inside as well as outside of said structure, so that said sluice-gate (3) allows the passage of water - in normal flow conditions - from the opening on the water surface while, in case of an excessive level increase and being connected to the float (1) on the surface, the latter rises and operates the opening of said sluice-gate so that due to the pressure of the water as well as to the air inlets provided on the surface, a quick emptying of the basin may be realized until the basin itself or the course of the water is back to a safety level.

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**AN ANTI-FLOODING DEVICE
FOR THE EXPLOITATION OF WATER
ENERGY**

- 5 The present invention concerns an anti-flooding device with possible displacement of the waters for the exploitation of water energy, comprising a double closing system with an outer or inner cylindrical element, with automatic, semi-automatic or manual operation.
- 10 It is the aim of the present invention to provide for the discharge of water from water basins, rivers, channels and small pools and for its possible displacement from one basin to another one through pipe-lines, making use of the principle of the communicating vessels.
- 15 The device according to the present invention may be used, furthermore, for displacing water from one point to another one of the territory realizing tanks, collection basins for water and small watercraft centrals so as to obtain natural and local energy sources, avoiding the need of realizing the great systems known at present and which always cause
- 20 ecological and environmental unbalance, and thus making use of resources which have never been considered before.

A further advantage of the device according to the present invention consists in its constructive easiness, which implies low costs in

25 production and maintenance as well.

The device according to the present invention consists of a pipe-line provided, in its upper part, with an opening at the surface level which assures a constantly equal water level in the basin, and below which there are a plurality of pipes which come out above the surface for the air passage and for being guided to a float connected to a tubular sluice-gate that closes an opening realized on the bottom of the main pipe-line, which may be connected and functioning inside as well as outside of said structure, so that said sluice-gate allows the passage of water – in normal flow conditions – from the opening on the water surface while, in case of an excessive level increase and being connected to the float on the surface, the latter rises and operates the opening of said sluice-gate so that due to the pressure of the water as well as to the air inlets provided on the surface, a quick emptying of the basin may be realized until the basin itself or the course of the water is back to a safety level.

Above mentioned device may be operated manually, by means of levers or mechanic gears, or by electric motors with manual or automatic control by means of manistats for the control of the level, thus allowing adjusting the outlet flow of the waters.

Furthermore, the device according to the present invention shows a considerable functioning safety as the device is provided with two extractable filter nets, one on the surface and another one at the inlet below, which prevent the possible passage of heavy masses that could damage or obstruct the system and the mechanisms connected thereto.

The opening mechanism is provided as being connected to a float on the surface which, in case of lacking functioning due to breakdown of the mechanic components described above and with an increase of the water level, rises said sluice-guide so as to favour the outflow of the waters through the opening on the bottom, until the water level in the basin returns to its usual levels, thus preventing any kind of flooding. Furthermore, in case of damages, obstructions or servicing, a throttle-valve or of any other known kind, placed in the outlet pipe of the waters, blocks the water flows avoiding the forming of whirlpools, dangerous for operators.

The present invention will be described more in detail hereinbelow relating to the enclosed drawings in which some embodiments are shown.

Figures 1, 2 and 3 show respectively the scheme of a device according to the present invention in its normal functioning condition, in emergency condition and in an axonometric and transparency view.

Figures 4, 4'; 5, 5'; 6, 6' and 7, 7' show, in lateral schemes and in axonometric transparency, some variants of the closing means.

Figure 8 shows an electric turbine for the exploitation of the water flow, placed at the outlet of the system, under the application of the Venturi effect.

Figure 9 shows the application of the device according to the present invention inside a basin obtained on the banks of a river and provided with an opening communicating with the course of the water which, due to the principle of the communicating vessels, keeps the same level.

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Figure 10 shows in an axonometric and transparency view, a variant of the closing means as an outer movable element.

The enclosed figures and anti-flooding device with the displacement of the waters for the exploitation of water energy, comprising a double closing system with an inner or outer cylindrical element, with automatic, semi-automatic and manual operation, consisting of the following elements:

- a float 1;
- 15 - an inlet opening 2 in normal conditions, with a filtering net 5 and a central hole for the passage of the cable 4 for raising the closing element 3;
- a closing element 3 having the section of a truncated cone or a cylindrical section, with sealing gaskets;
- 20 - a cable connecting said float 1 and said closing element 3;
- an extractable net 5 for filtering the flows and for protecting said device;
- an inlet opening 6 for emergency conditions, for quick discharge;
- a closing means 7;
- 25 - a pipe 8 for the water outflow;

- a plurality of valves 9 for closing the flows for servicing interventions;
- a plurality of rings 10 for fixing and sliding of the float;
- pipes 11 for air intakes and for the sliding of the float;
- 5 - a lever 12 for the manual opening.

As far as the variant of the closing element shown in figures 4, 4' is concerned, the pre-pressed or turned kind is put into evidence, suggested for small structures, the seat having the shape of a truncated cone and the
10 sealing gaskets comprising:

- a ring 13 for the connection to the structure;
 - sealing gaskets 14;
 - a closing element 15 having a truncated cone shape.
- 15 Figures 5, 5' show in detail a closing means with cylindrical adjustable rings, for realising systems of any dimension, applying the stop rings onto the fix element as well as onto the movable element by means of a threading for regulating the closing, comprising:
- rings 16 for keeping the fix element;
 - 20 - rings 17 for keeping the movable element.

Figures 6, 6' show a closing means with conical adjustable rings, which is a variant of the precedent one with the difference that the keeping rings have a conical profile, while the variant shown in figures 7, 7'
25 shows a closing means with an external movable element sliding outside of the pipeline instead than inside.

Figures 8 shows the following details:

- a turbine 18 connected to the electric generator;
- valves 19 for closing the flow in case of servicing;
- a valve 20 for opening /closing the by-pass.

5

Figure 9 shows the device according to the present invention as applied in a basin on the bank of a river, provided with an opening communicating with the course of the water and being at the same level.

10 Figure 10 shows a variant with a closing means with a movable external element, comprising:

- a float 1;
- an inlet opening 2 in normal conditions with a filtering net and a central hole for the air intake;
- 15 - an outer cylindrical closing element 3, with sealing gaskets;
- cables 4 for connecting the float and the closing element;
- an inlet opening 6 in emergency conditions, for quick outflow;
- a pipe 11 for the central air intake and for the sliding of the float;
- a ring 13 for connecting the structure and the ring for keeping to the
- 20 fix element;
- an outer, movable closing element 15;
- rings 16 for keeping the movable element.

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CLAIMS

1. An anti-flooding device with displacement of the waters for the exploitation of the water energy, comprising a double closing system
5 with an outer or inner cylindrical element, with automatic, semi-automatic or manual operation, *characterized in* a pipeline provided, in its upper part, with an opening (2) placed at the surface level of a basin which assures a constantly equal water level, and below which there are a plurality of pipes (11) which come out above the surface
10 for the air passage and for being guided to a float (1) connected to a tubular sluice-gate (3) that closes an opening (6) realized on the bottom of the pipeline, which may be connected and functioning inside as well as outside of said structure so that said sluice-gate allows the passage of water – in normal flow conditions – from the
15 opening (2) on the water surface while, in case of an excessive level increase and being connected to the float (1) on the surface, the latter rises and operates the opening of said sluice-gate (3) so that due to the pressure of the water as well as to the air inlets provided on the surface, a quick emptying of the basin may be realized until the basin
20 itself or the course of the water is back to a safety level.
2. An anti-flooding device according to claim 1, *characterized in* the presence of:
 - a float (1);

- an inlet opening (2) in normal conditions, with a filtering net (5) and a central hole for the passage of a cable (4) for raising a closing element (3);
 - a closing element (3) having the section of a truncated cone or a cylindrical section, with sealing gaskets;
 - a cable (4) connecting said float (1) and said closing element (3);
 - an extractable net (5) for filtering the flows and for protecting said device;
 - an inlet opening (6) for emergency conditions, for quick discharge;
 - a closing means (7);
 - a pipe (8) for the water outflow;
 - a plurality of valves (9) for closing the flows for servicing interventions;
 - a plurality of rings (10) for fixing and sliding of the float (1);
 - pipes (11) for air intakes and for the sliding of said float (1);
 - a lever (12) for the manual opening.
3. An anti-flooding device according to claim 1, of the pre-pressed or turned kind, suited for small structures, *characterized in* a seat having the shape of a truncated cone and sealing gaskets comprising:
- a ring (13) for the connection to the structure;
 - sealing gaskets (14);
 - a closing element (15) having a truncated cone shape.
4. An anti-flooding device according to claim 1, *characterized in* a closing means with cylindrical adjustable rings, for realizing systems

of any dimension, applying the stop rings onto the fix element as well as onto the movable element by means of a threading for regulating the closing, comprising:

- rings (16) for keeping the fix element;
- 5 - rings (17) for keeping the movable element.

5. An anti-flooding device according to claim 1, *characterized in a* closing means with conical adjustable rings.
- 10 6. An anti-flooding device according to claim 1, *characterized in a* closing element with an outer movable element that slides outside of the pipe-line instead than inside.
- 15 7. An anti-flooding device according to claim 1, *characterized in a* turbine (18) connected to the electric generator for the exploitation of the water flow, placed at the outlet of the system under application of the Venturi effect, comprising:
 - valves (19) for closing the flow in case of servicing;
 - a valve (20) for opening /closing the by-pass.
- 20 8. An anti-flooding device according to claim 1, *characterized in that* it is applied inside a basin on the banks of a river, provided with an opening communicating with the course of the water and being at the same level.

9. An anti-flooding device according to claim 1, *characterized in* the presence of a closing element with an external movable element, comprising:
- a float (1);
 - 5 - an inlet opening (2) in normal conditions with a filtering net and a central hole for the air intake;
 - an outer cylindrical closing element (3), with sealing gaskets;
 - cables (4) for connecting the float and the closing element;
 - an inlet opening (6) in emergency conditions, for quick outflow;
 - 10 - a pipe (11) for the central air intake and for the sliding of the float;
 - a ring (13) for connecting the structure and the ring for keeping to the fix element;
 - an outer, movable closing element (15);
 - rings (16) for keeping the movable element.
- 15
10. An anti-flooding device according to claim 1, *characterized in that* it determines the exploitation of the water energy by means of the flow created inside the outflow pipes.
- 20
11. An anti-flooding device according to claim 1, *characterized in* the presence of a pipe provided, in its upper part, with an opening on the water surface for assuring a constant water level in the basin in normal conditions, and with an opening on the bottom for the quick discharge in case of emergency.

12. An anti-flooding device according to claim 1, *characterized in that* the tubular sluice-gate (3) may be applied inside as well as outside of the device.

- 5 13. An anti-flooding device according to claim 1, *characterized in the* presence of two threaded rings placed on the fix part and two threaded rings on the movable part of the device, for the regulation of the closing and of the sealing of the sluice-gate (3).

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FIG. 1

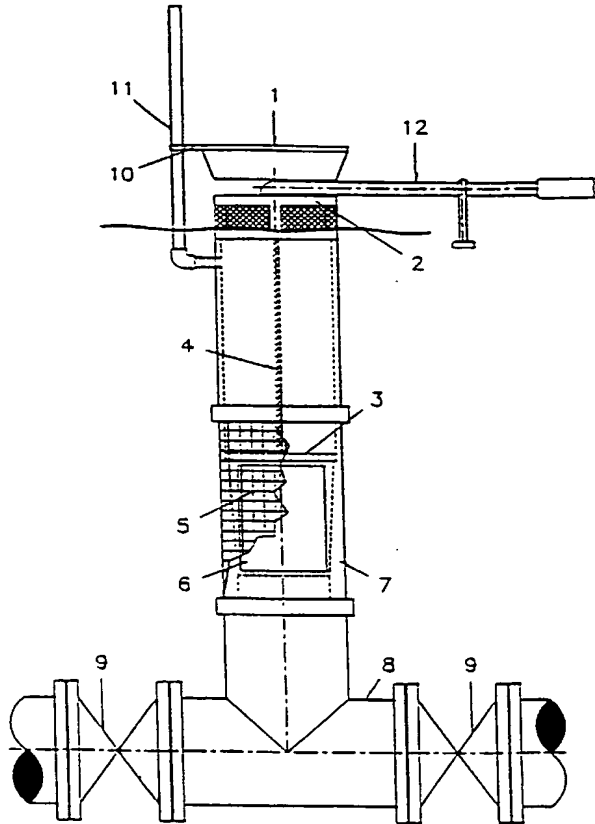


FIG. 2

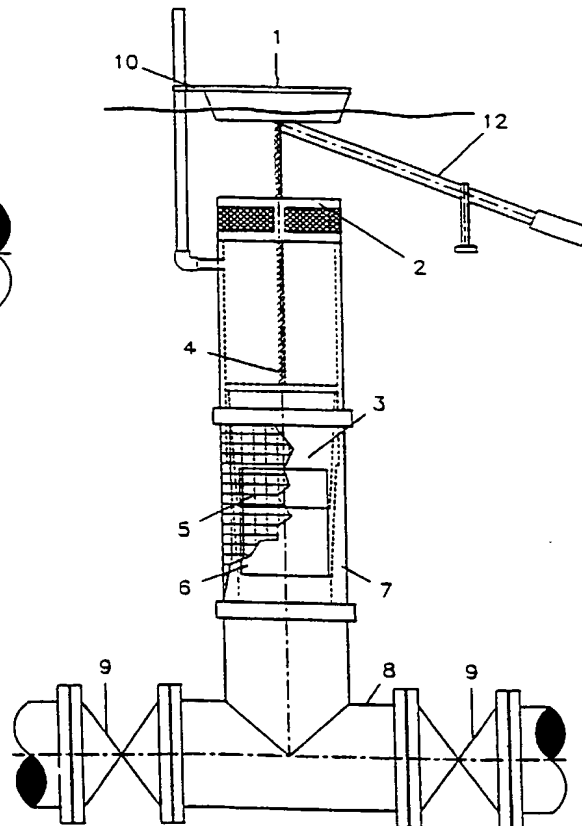


FIG. 6

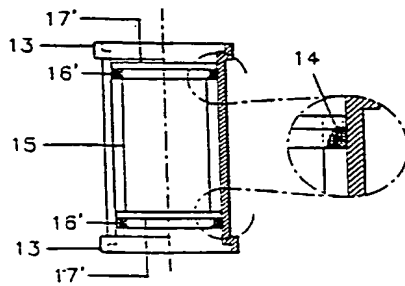


FIG. 6'

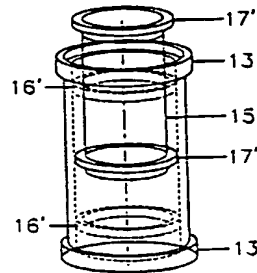


FIG. 7

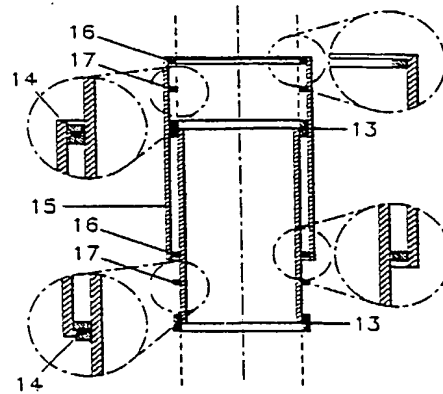


FIG. 7'

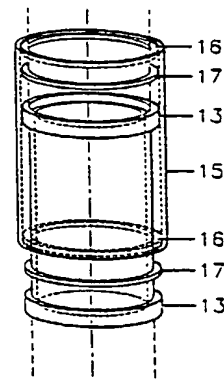


FIG. 8

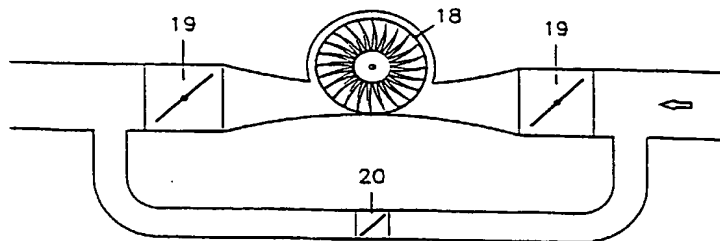


FIG. 3

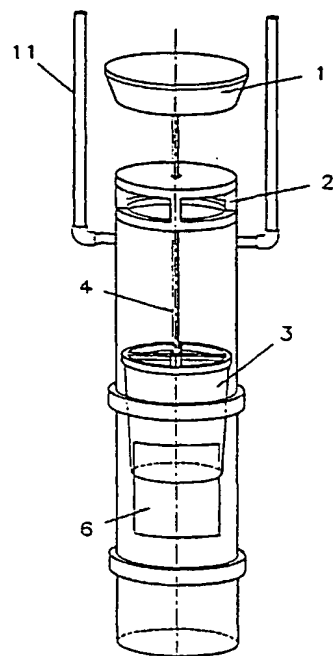


FIG. 4

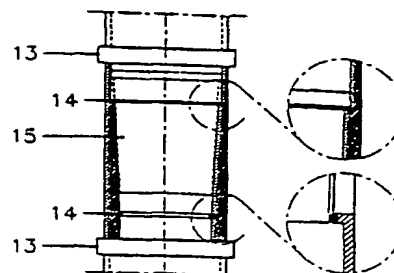


FIG. 4'

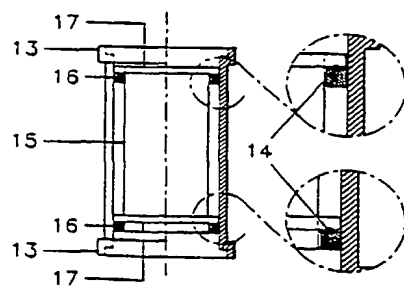
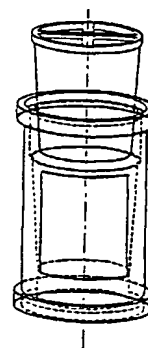


FIG. 5

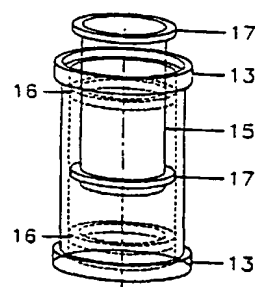


FIG. 5'

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FIG. 9

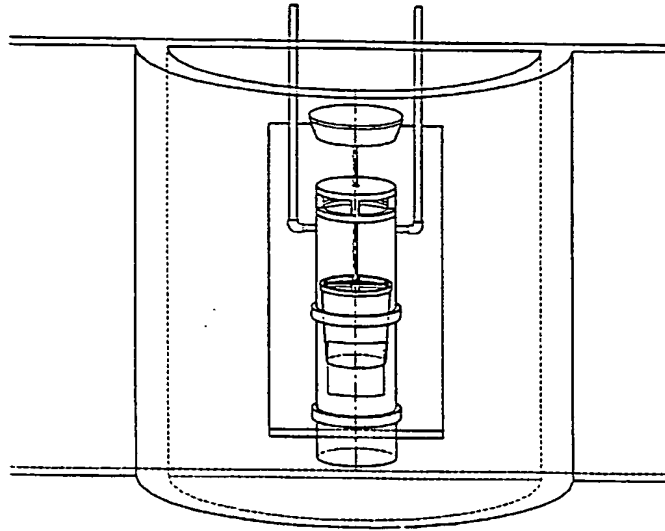
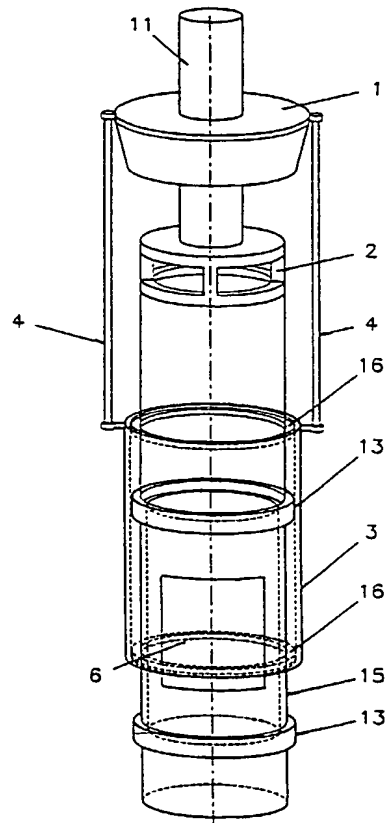


FIG. 10



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Classification No
PCT/IT 03/00562

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 E02B8/04 E02B9/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 E02B E03D G05D F16K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	DE 248 287 C (MÜLLER) the whole document ---	1
X	US 1 756 596 A (KATONA LOUIS F) 29 April 1930 (1930-04-29) the whole document ---	1
A	US 4 941 771 A (PERPER ROBERT) 17 July 1990 (1990-07-17) abstract; figure 1 -----	1

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

22 January 2004

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30/01/2004

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No
PCT/IT 03/00562

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
DE 248287	C	NONE	
US 1756596	A	29-04-1930	NONE
US 4941771	A	17-07-1990	NONE